

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. By this Response, a new title and abstract are provided. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested based on the following comments.

Title

The Office Action requested a new title that is more descriptive of the invention. In the Response, applicant has changed the title to "An Image Processing Method for Processing Image Data Based on Conditions Customized For Each User." Applicant respectfully submits that the new title is more descriptive of the invention.

Abstract

The Office Action reminds applicant of the proper language and format for an abstract. Applicants have provided a new abstract which complies with the proper language and format rules governing abstracts.

Prior Art Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Haraguchi, et al. (US 6,222,613). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an image processing method for obtaining processed image data by carrying out image processing on image data obtained by digital camera according to default processing conditions and processing conditions corresponding to a model of the digital camera, image processing method comprising a step of: customizing the default processing conditions and/or the processing conditions corresponding to the model of the digital camera.

Claim 5 recites, *inter alia*, an image processing apparatus for obtaining processed image data by carrying out image processing on image data obtained by a digital camera according to default processing conditions and processing conditions corresponding to a model of the digital camera, the image processing apparatus comprising: default processing conditions setting means for customizing default processing conditions; model processing condition setting means for customizing the processing conditions corresponding to the model of the digital camera; and image processing means for carrying out the image processing.

Claim 10 recites, the computer readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute an image processing method for obtaining processed image data by carrying out image processing on image data obtained by a digital camera according to default processing conditions and processing conditions corresponding to a model of a digital camera, the program comprising the procedure of: customizing the default processing

conditions and/or the processing conditions corresponding to the model of the digital camera.

Claim 11 recites, an image processing condition setting method for setting image processing conditions for carrying out image processing on the image data obtained by a digital camera, the image processing condition setting method comprising the step of: customizing default processing conditions and/or processing conditions corresponding to a model of a digital camera.

Each of the above independent claims recites a feature of “customizing” default processing conditions and the processing conditions associated with a particular model of digital camera. The default processing conditions and processing conditions for various digital camera models are stored in the processing apparatus. The user may change the predetermined processing conditions that have been stored for each digital camera model or provided as default processing conditions, to the users liking. Thus, the default and digital camera model processing conditions become “customized” by the user and are no longer defined by the predetermined stored processing conditions.

The specification provides a clear understanding of the term “customization.” Customization is disclosed for example, on pages 3, 8, 9, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25 and 28 of the specification. To illustrate an understanding of customization of the various processing data according to embodiments of the invention, reference is made to page 23 of the specification, lines 6-13. This particular snapshot of the specification discusses obtaining default tone

corrective curves corresponding to a model of a digital camera. The default tone corrected curves are predetermined values stored for this particular camera model. The correction curve for the tone corrected curves is obtained based on a customization of the values provided by a user. Thus, the predetermined tone corrective curves for this particular digital camera model is corrected to reflect the values input by a user. These input values customize the predetermined tone corrective curves and the customized values are used in correcting the image.

Thus, not only are default processing conditions and processing conditions for particular digital camera models used in the image processing apparatus of the present invention, a change of these predetermined values can be made by a user thus providing a customization of the default processing conditions and the processing conditions for the various models of digital cameras, which are used to process images.

In contrast, Haraguchi teaches a method and apparatus in which the processing of image data is based on predetermined default data or processing conditions predetermined for each type of digital camera. See column 10, lines 62-65. The images are processed based on the predetermined processing conditions. The operator may select the model of camera from which the particular processing conditions are assigned. However, nowhere does Haraguchi teach allowing an operator to customize or change the

predetermined processing conditions associated with different digital cameras or the default processing conditions.

In view of the above, applicant respectfully submits that Haraguchi fails to teach each and every feature of the claimed invention recited in independent claims 1, 5, 10 and 11, as required under 35 U.S.C. §102. Further, dependent claims 2-4 and 6-9 are likewise distinguishable for the reasons above.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 09/842,922

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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